CHAPTER 9C. MARKINGS

Section 9C.01 Functions of Markings

Support:

01 Markings indicate the separation of the lanes for road users, assist the bicyclist by indicating assigned travel paths, indicate correct position for traffic control signal actuation, and provide advance information for turning and crossing maneuvers.

Section 9C.02 General Principles

Guidance:

01 *Bikeway design guides (see Section 9A.05) should be used when designing markings for bicycle facilities.*

Standard:

02 **Markings used on bikeways shall be retroreflectorized.**

On State highways, markings material shall conform to Sections 84-2.02 and 84-3.02 of the Standard Specifications published by the Department of Transportation.

Guidance:

03 *Pavement marking word messages, symbols, and/or arrows should be used in bikeways where appropriate. Consideration should be given to selecting pavement marking materials that will minimize loss of traction for bicycles under wet conditions.*

Standard:

04 **The colors, width of lines, patterns of lines, symbols, and arrows used for marking bicycle facilities shall be as defined in Sections 3A.05, 3A.06, and 3B.20.**

Support:

05 Figures 9B-7 and 9C-1 through 9C-9 show examples of the application of lines, word messages, symbols, and arrows on designated bikeways.

Option:

06 A dotted line may be used to define a specific path for a bicyclist crossing an intersection (see Figure 9C-1) as described in Sections 3A.06 and 3B.08.

Section 9C.03 Marking Patterns and Colors on Shared-Use Paths

Option:

01 Where shared-use paths are of sufficient width to designate two minimum width lanes, a solid yellow line may be used to separate the two directions of travel where passing is not permitted, and a broken yellow line may be used where passing is permitted (see Figure 9C-2).

Guidance:

02 *Broken lines used on shared-use paths should have the usual 1-to-3 segment-to-gap ratio. A nominal 3-foot segment with a 9-foot gap should be used.*

03 *If conditions make it desirable to separate two directions of travel on shared-use paths at particular locations, a solid yellow line should be used to indicate no passing and no traveling to the left of the line.*

04 *Markings as shown in Figure 9C-2 should be used at the location of obstructions in the center of the path, including vertical elements intended to physically prevent unauthorized motor vehicles from entering the path.*

Support:

A centerline marking is particularly beneficial in the following circumstances:

A. Where there is heavy use;
B. On curves with restricted sight distance; and,
C. Where the path is unlighted and nighttime riding is expected.

Option:

05 A solid white line may be used on shared-use paths to separate different types of users. The R9-7 sign (see Section 9B.12) may be used to supplement the solid white line.

06 Smaller size letters and symbols may be used on shared-use paths. Where arrows are needed on shared-use paths, half-size layouts of the arrows may be used (see Section 3B.20).

Section 9C.04 Markings For Bicycle Lanes

Support:

01 Pavement markings designate that portion of the roadway for preferential use by bicyclists. Markings inform all road users of the restricted nature of the bicycle lane.

Standard:

02 **Longitudinal pavement markings shall be used to define bicycle lanes.**

Guidance:

03 *If used, bicycle lane word, symbol, and/or arrow markings (see Figure 9C-3) should be placed at the beginning of a bicycle lane and at periodic intervals along the bicycle lane based on engineering judgment.*

Standard:

04 **If the bicycle lane symbol marking is used in conjunction with word or arrow messages, it shall precede them.**

Option:

05 If the word, symbol, and/or arrow pavement markings shown in Figure 9C-3 are used, Bike Lane signs (see Section 9B.04) may also be used, but to avoid overuse of the signs not necessarily adjacent to every set of pavement markings.

Standard:

06 **A through bicycle lane shall not be positioned to the right of a right turn only lane or to the left of a left turn only lane.**

Support:

07 A bicyclist continuing straight through an intersection from the right of a right-turn lane or from the left of a left-turn lane would be inconsistent with normal traffic behavior and would violate the expectations of right- or left-turning motorists.

Guidance:

08 *When the right through lane is dropped to become a right turn only lane, the bicycle lane markings should stop at least 100 feet before the beginning of the right-turn lane. Through bicycle lane markings should resume to the left of the right turn only lane.*

09 *An optional through-right turn lane next to a right turn only lane should not be used where there is a through bicycle lane. If a capacity analysis indicates the need for an optional through-right turn lane, the bicycle lane should be discontinued at the intersection approach.*

10 *Posts or raised pavement markers should not be used to separate bicycle lanes from adjacent travel lanes.*

Support:

11 Using raised devices creates a collision potential for bicyclists by placing fixed objects immediately adjacent to the travel path of the bicyclist. In addition, raised devices can prevent vehicles turning right from merging with the bicycle lane, which is the preferred method for making the right turn. Raised devices used to define a bicycle lane can also cause problems in cleaning and maintaining the bicycle lane.

Standard:

12 **Bicycle lanes shall not be provided on the circular roadway of a roundabout.**

Guidance:

13 *Bicycle lane markings should stop at least 100 feet before the crosswalk, or if no crosswalk is provided, at least 100 feet before the yield line, or if no yield line is provided, then at least 100 feet before the edge of the circulatory roadway.*

Support:

14 Examples of bicycle lane markings at right-turn lanes are shown in Figures 9C-1, 9C-4, and 9C-5. Examples of pavement markings for bicycle lanes on a two-way street are shown in Figure 9C-6. Pavement word message, symbol, and arrow markings for bicycle lanes are shown in Figure 9C-3.

Class III Bikeways (Bike Route) are shared routes and do not require pavement markings. In some instances, a 4 inch white edge stripe separating the traffic lanes from the shoulder can be helpful in providing for safer shared use. This practice is particularly applicable on rural highways and on major arterials in urban areas where there is no vehicle parking.

Option:

The Bike Lane Intersection (Detail 39A) line as shown in Figure 9C-101(CA) may be used to extend the bike lane to or through an intersection.

Bicycle Lane Markings on Class II Bikeways (Bike Lane)

Guidance:

Bicycle lane markings on Class II Bikeways (Bike Lane) should be placed a constant distance from the marked lane line or centerline, as appropriate. Bike lanes with parking permitted (11 ft to 13 feet between the bike lane line and the curb) should not be directed toward the curb at intersections or localized areas where parking is prohibited. Such a practice prevents bicyclists from following a straight course. Where transitions from one type of bike lane to another are necessary, smooth tapers should be provided.

Support:

Class II Bikeways (Bike Lane) require standard signing and pavement markings as shown in Figure 9C-102(CA). This figure also depicts the proper method of striping bike lanes through intersections. Bike lane lines are not typically extended through intersections.

Guidance:

Where right turns are not permitted, the solid bike lane stripe should extend to the edge of the intersection, and begin again on the far side. Where there is no right turn only lane and right turns are permitted, the solid stripe should terminate 100 feet to 200 feet prior to the intersection.

Option:

A dashed line, as shown in Figure 9C-102(CA), may be carried to, or near, the intersection. Where city blocks are short (less than 400 feet), the length of dashed stripe may be 100 feet.

Guidance:

Where blocks are longer or vehicle speeds are high (greater than 35 mph), the length of dashed stripe should be increased to 200 feet.

Standard:

Raised barriers (e.g., raised traffic bars and asphalt concrete dikes) or raised pavement markers shall not be used to delineate bike lanes on Class II Bikeways (Bike Lane).

Support:

Raised barriers prevent motorists from merging into bike lanes before making right turns, as required by the CVC, and restrict the movement of bicyclists desiring to enter or exit bike lanes.

They also impede routine maintenance. Raised pavement markers increase the difficulty for bicyclists when entering or exiting bike lanes, and discourage motorists from merging into bike lanes before making right turns.

Option:

Physical barriers may be used to convert a Class II Bikeway (Bike Lane) to Class I Bikeway (Bike Path).

Bicycle Lane Treatment at Right Turn Only Lanes

Guidance:

A dashed line across the right-turn-only lane should not be used on extremely long lanes, or where there are double right-turn-only lanes. For these types of intersections, all striping should be dropped to permit judgment by the bicyclists to prevail.

Option:

A Bicycle Crossing (W11-1) sign may be used to warn motorists of the potential for bicyclists crossing their path. See Section 9B.17.

When a bike lane approaches a ramp intersection that intersects the local facility at or close to 90° (typical of a compact or spread diamond configuration), then Figures 9C-4, 9C-4(CA) and 9C-5 may be the appropriate method of getting bike lanes through the interchange.

Guidance:

However, when a bike lane approaches one or more ramp intersections that intersect the local facility at various angles other than 90° (typically high-speed, skewed ramps), Figure 9C-103(CA) should be used.

Bicycle Lane Treatment through Interchanges

Support:

Markings for a bike lane through a typical interchange are shown in Figure 9C-103(CA).

Guidance:

The 6 inch bike lane stripe should be dropped 100 ft prior to the ramp intersection as shown in Figure 9C-103(CA) to allow for adequate weaving distance.

Option:

Figure 9C-103(CA) may also be used where the preferred designation is a Class III Bikeway (Bike Route), with the Bike Lane (R81(CA)) signs being replaced with Bike Route (D11-1) signs and the bike lane delineation eliminated. A 4 inch stripe may be used to delineate the shoulder through out the bike route designation.

Standard:

Signing and striping as shown in Figure 9C-103(CA) shall be repeated at additional onramps within the interchange.

Guidance:

Where the onramps intersect at the local road at or near 90º, the striping should be per Figure 9C-4(CA).

Standard:

The shoulder width shall not be reduced through the interchange area. The minimum shoulder width shall match the approach roadway shoulder width, but not less than 4 feet, or 5 feet if a gutter exists. If the shoulder width is not available, the designated bike lane shall end at the previous local road intersection.

Bicycle Lane Treatment Where Vehicle Parking is Prohibited/Permitted

Support:

Markings for a bike lane where vehicle parking is prohibited or permitted are shown in Figure 9C-102(CA).

Standard:

Where motorist right turns are permitted, the solid bike lane shall either be dropped entirely, or dashed (Refer Bike Intersection lane, Detail 39A, shown in Figure 9C-101(CA)) beginning at a point between 100 feet and 200 feet in advance of the intersection.

Option:

In areas where parking stalls are not necessary (because parking is light), a 4 inch solid white stripe may be painted to fully delineate the bike lane. This may be advisable where there is concern that motorists may misconstrue the bike lane to be a traffic lane.

BIKE LANE Pavement Markings

Standard:

The BIKE LANE pavement markings shall be placed on the far side of each intersection.

Option:

The BIKE LANE pavement markings may also be placed at other locations as desired.

Support:

Examples of BIKE LANE pavement markings are shown in various figures in this chapter.

Option:

Optional word, arrow and symbol markings with details as shown in Figure 9C-3 may be used.

Section 9C.05 Bicycle Detector Symbol

Option:

01 A symbol (see Figure 9C-7) may be placed on the pavement indicating the optimum position for a bicyclist to actuate the signal.

02 An R10-22 sign (see Section 9B.13 and Figure 9B-2) may be installed to supplement the pavement marking.

Support:

Section 4D.105(CA) and Figure 4D-111(CA) contain information on bicycle detectors and their locations.

Section 9C.06 Pavement Markings for Obstructions

Guidance:

01 *In roadway situations where it is not practical to eliminate a drain grate or other roadway obstruction that is inappropriate for bicycle travel, white markings applied as shown in Figure 9C-8 should be used to guide bicyclists around the condition.*

Section 9C.07 Shared Lane Marking

Option:

01 The Shared Lane Marking shown in Figure 9C-9 may be used to:

A. Assist bicyclists with lateral positioning in a shared lane with on-street parallel parking in order to reduce the chance of a bicyclist's impacting the open door of a parked vehicle,
B. Assist bicyclists with lateral positioning in lanes that are too narrow for a motor vehicle and a bicycle to travel side by side within the same traffic lane,
C. Alert road users of the lateral location bicyclists are likely to occupy within the traveled way,
D. Encourage safe passing of bicyclists by motorists, and
E. Reduce the incidence of wrong-way bicycling.

Guidance:

02 *The Shared Lane Marking should not be placed on roadways that have a speed limit above 35 mph.*

Standard:

03 **Shared Lane Markings shall not be used on shoulders or in designated bicycle lanes.**

Guidance:

04 *If used in a shared lane with on-street parallel parking, Shared Lane Markings should be placed so that the centers of the markings are at least 11 feet from the face of the curb, or from the edge of the pavement where there is no curb.*

05 *If used on a street without on-street parking that has an outside travel lane that is less than 14 feet wide, the centers of the Shared Lane Markings should be at least 4 feet from the face of the curb, or from the edge of the pavement where there is no curb.*

06 *If used, the Shared Lane Marking should be placed immediately after an intersection and spaced at intervals not greater than 250 feet thereafter.*

Option:

07 Section 9B.06 describes a Bicycles May Use Full Lane sign that may be used in addition to or instead of the Shared Lane Marking to inform road users that bicyclists might occupy the travel lane.

Section 9C.101(CA) Barrier Posts on Class I Bikeways

Support:

Before a decision is made to install barrier posts, consideration needs to be given to the implementation of other remedial measures, such as Bike Path Exclusion (R44A(CA)) signs (see Section 9B.07) and/or redesigning the path entry so that motorists do not confuse it with vehicle access.

It could be necessary to install barrier posts at entrances to bike paths to prevent motor vehicles from entering. When locating such installations, care needs to be taken to assure that barriers are well marked and visible to bicyclists, day or night (i.e., install reflectors or reflectorized tape).

Guidance:

An envelope around the barriers should be striped as shown in Figure 9C-8. If sight distance is limited, special advance warning signs or painted pavement warnings should be provided. Where more than one post is necessary, 5 ft spacing should be used to permit passage of bicycle-towed trailers, adult tricycles, and to assure adequate room for safe bicycle passage without dismounting. Barrier post installations should be designed so they are removable to permit entrance by emergency and service vehicles.

Support:

Generally, barrier configurations that preclude entry by motorcycles present safety and convenience problems for bicyclists.

Guidance:

Such devices should be used only where extreme problems are encountered.

Section 9C.102(CA) Rumble Strips

Support:

Shoulder rumble strips are not suitable as a riding surface for bicycles. Refer to Section 3B.106(CA) for more information on rumble strips and bicyclists.

Figure 9C-1. Example of Intersection Pavement Markings—Designated Bicycle Lane with Left-Turn Area, Heavy Turn Volumes, Parking, One-Way Traffic, or Divided Highway

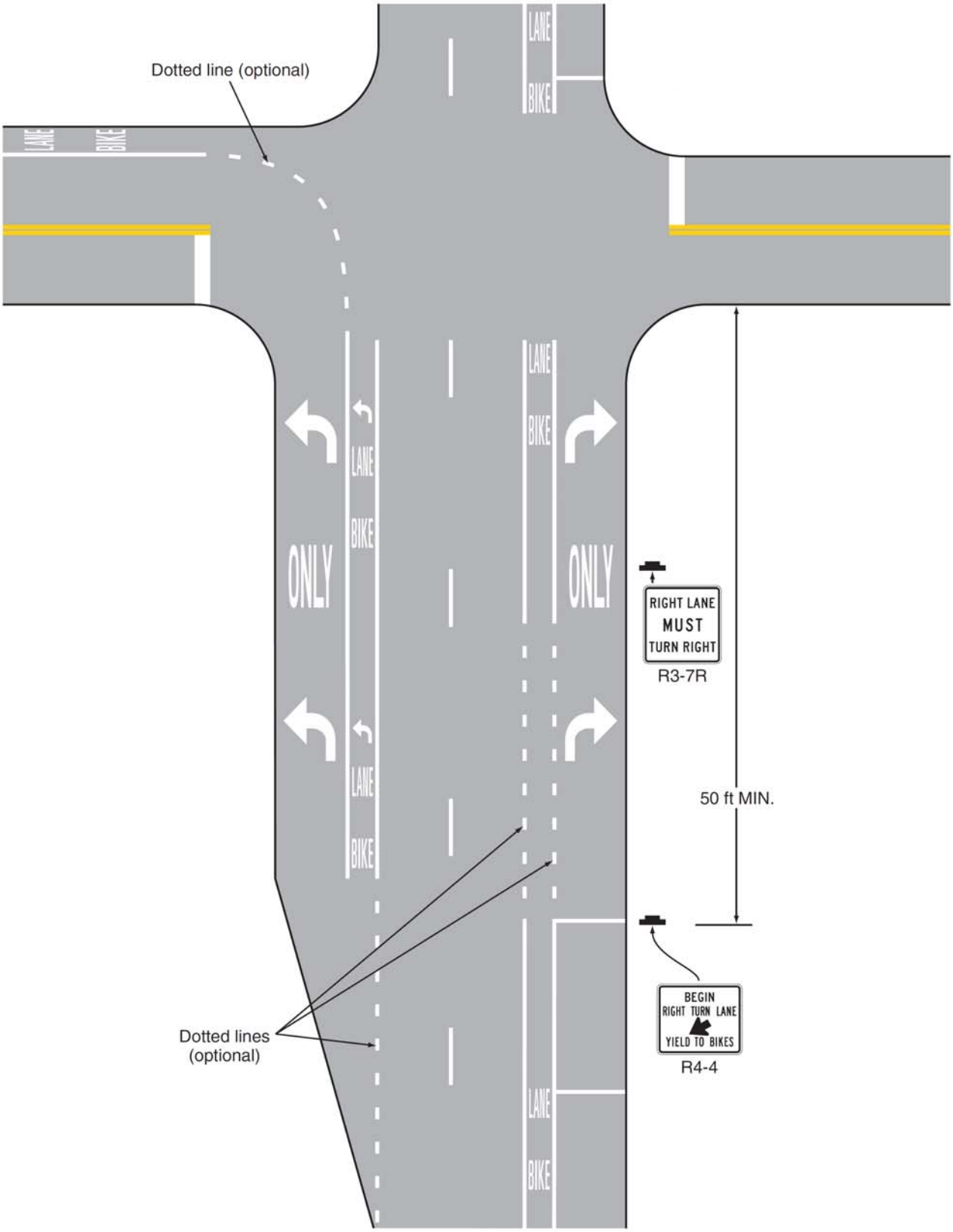


Figure 9C-2. Examples of Center Line Markings for Shared-Use Paths

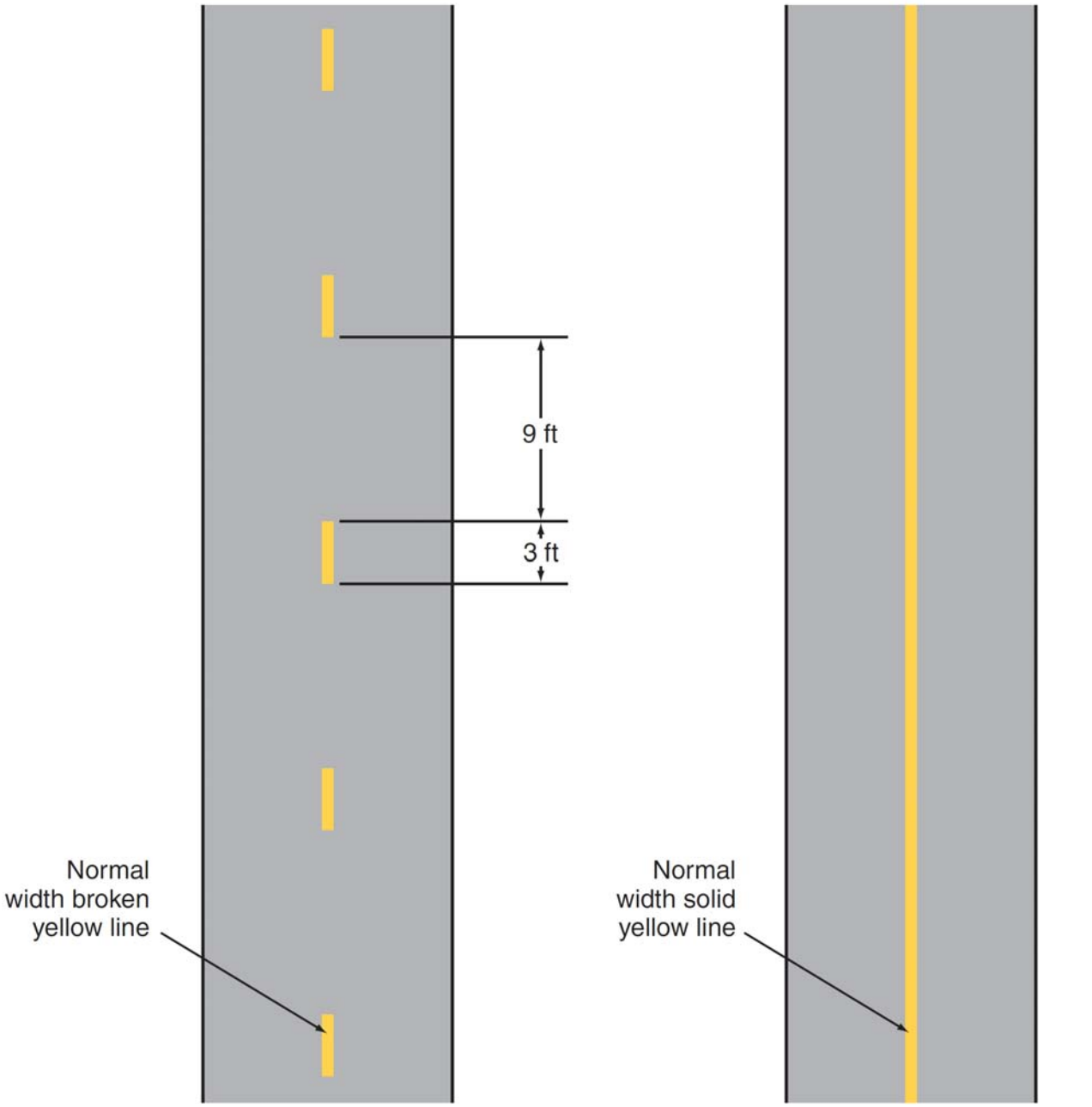


Figure 9C-3. Word, Symbol, and Arrow Pavement Markings for Bicycle Lanes

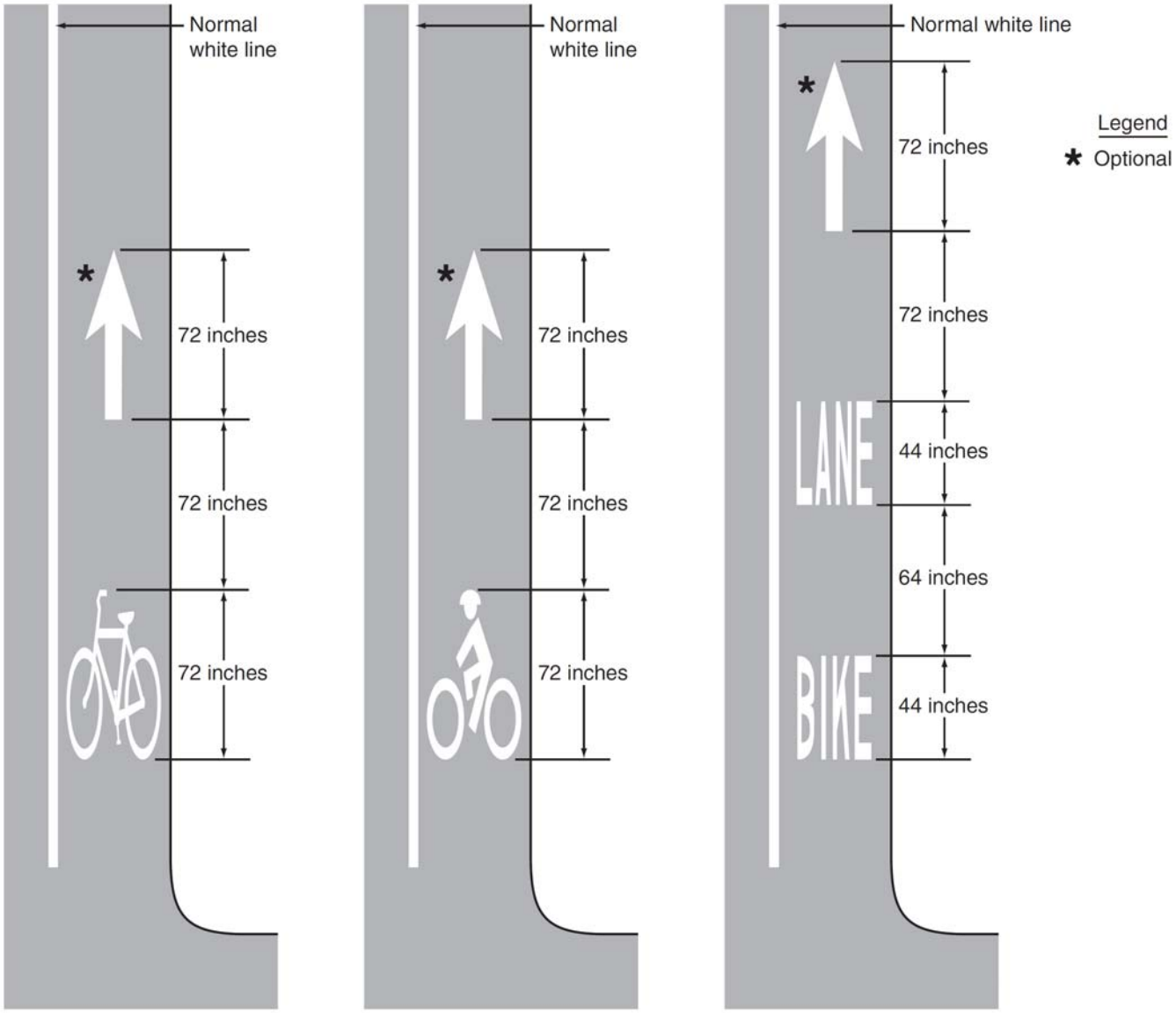


Figure 9C-4. Example of Bicycle Lane Treatment at a Right Turn Only Lane

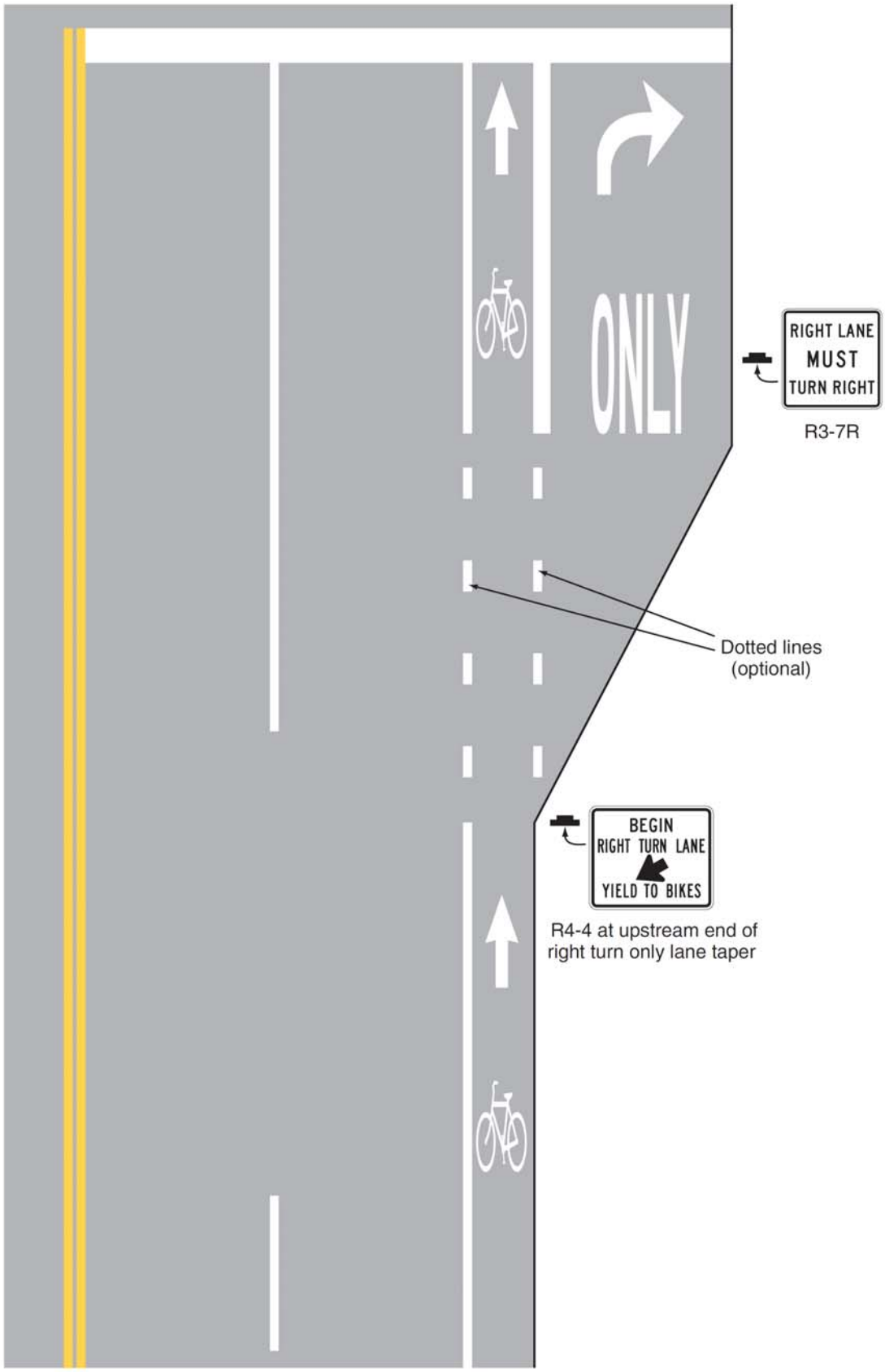


Figure 9C-4 (CA). Example of Bicycle Lane Treatment at a Right Turn Only Lane

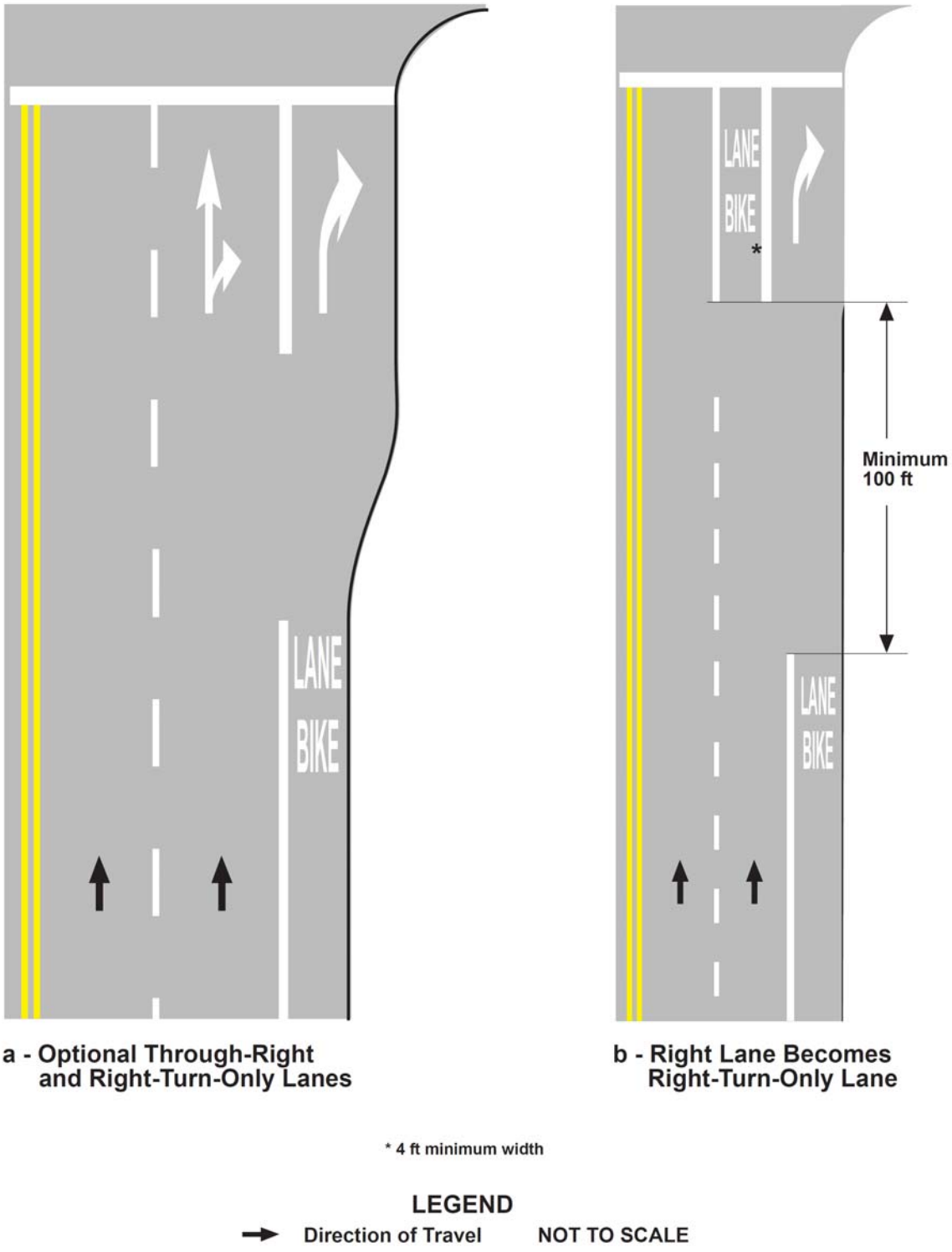


Figure 9C-5. Example of Bicycle Lane Treatment at Parking Lane into a Right Turn Only Lane

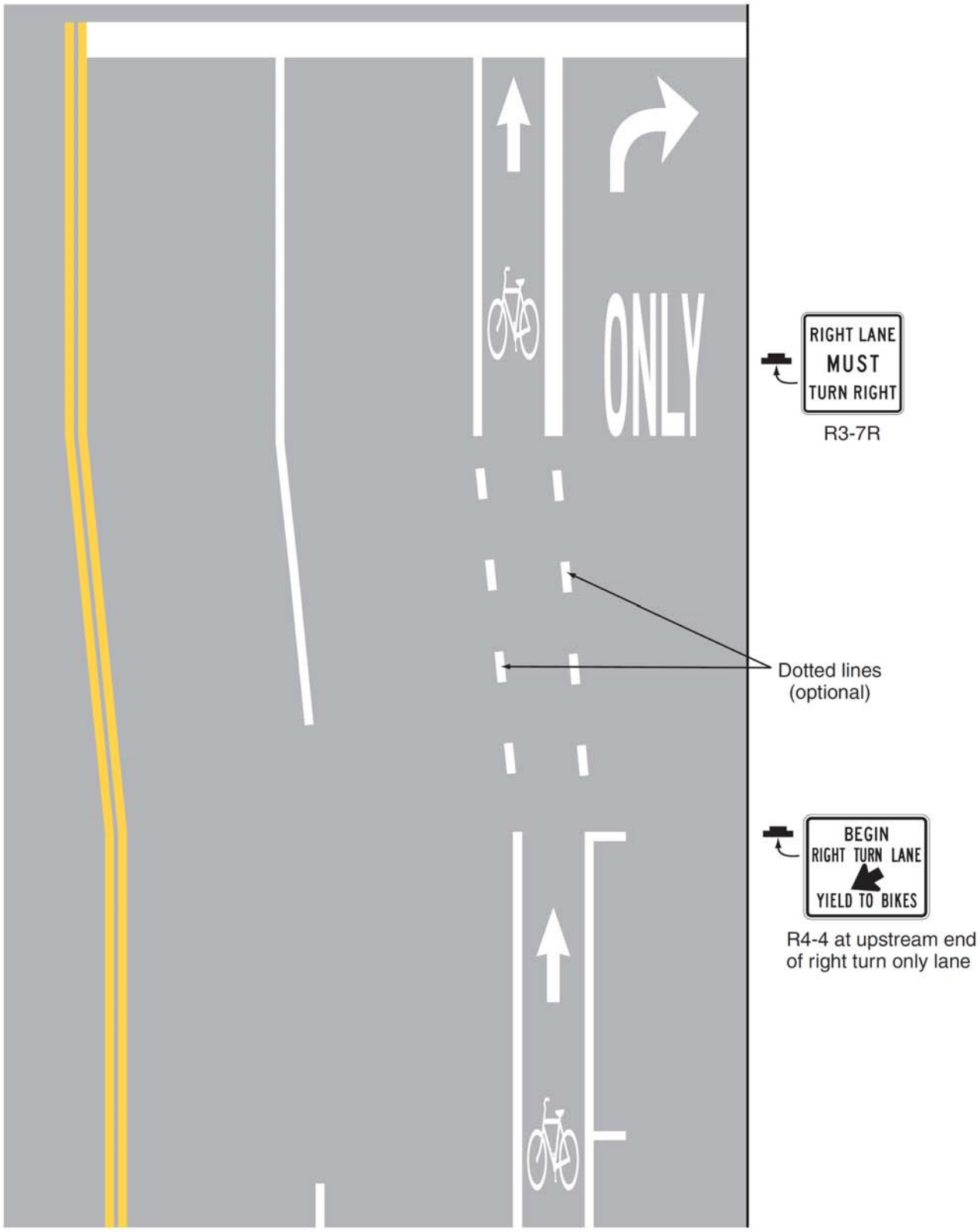


Figure 9C-6. Example of Pavement Markings for Bicycle Lanes on a Two-Way Street

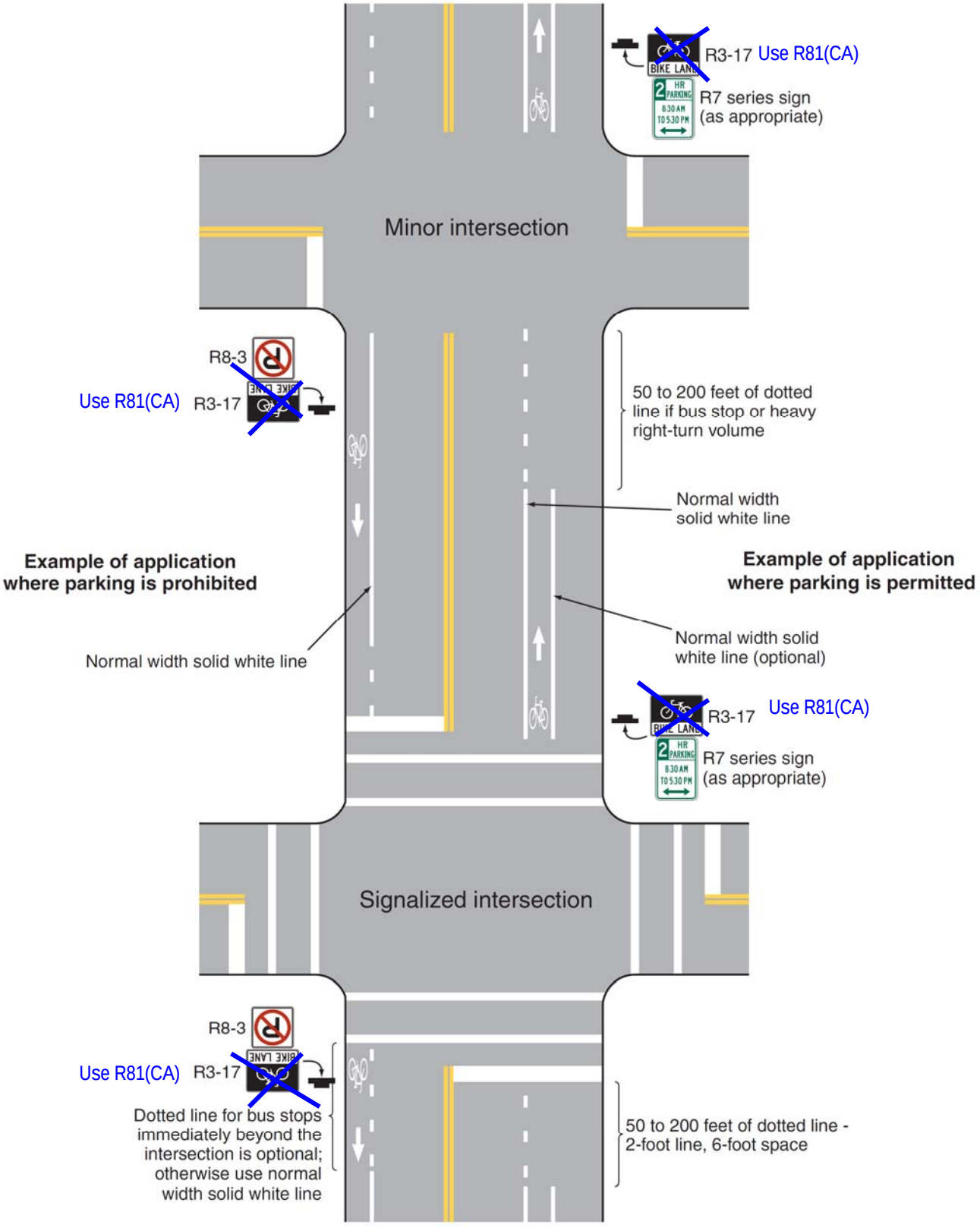


Figure 9C-7. Bicycle Detector Pavement Marking

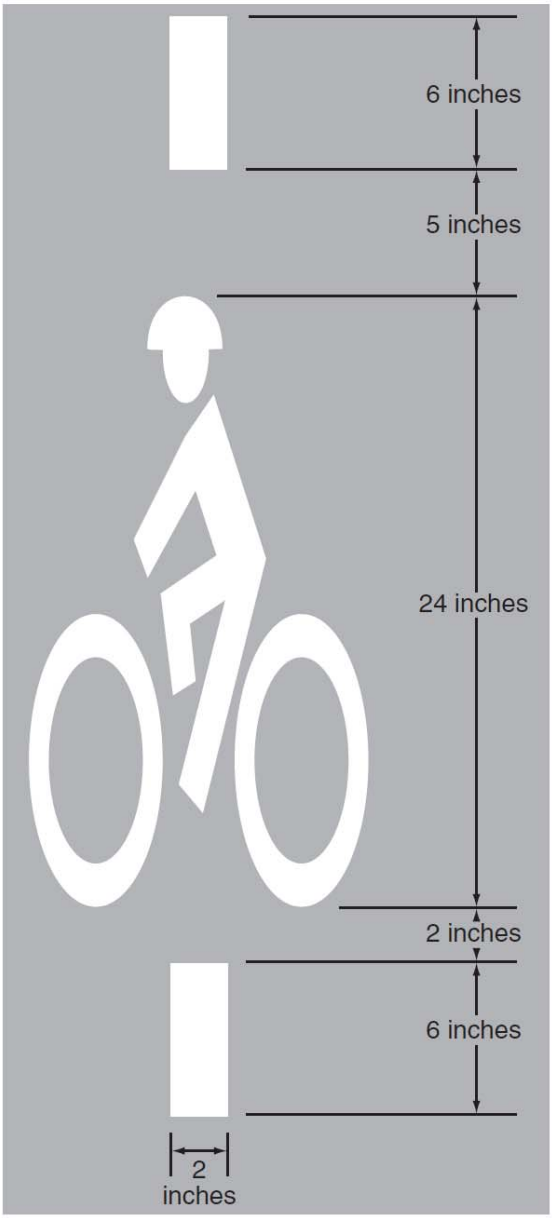
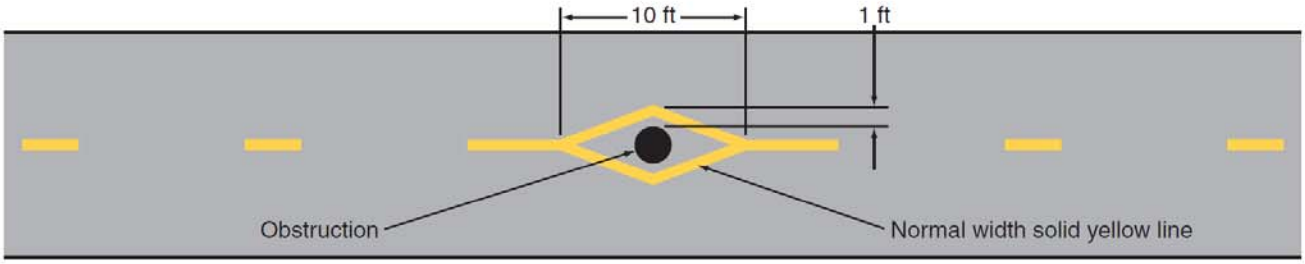
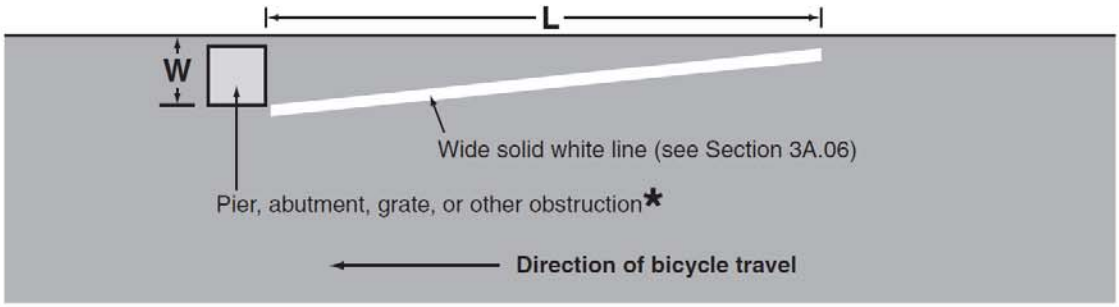


Figure 9C-8. Examples of Obstruction Pavement Markings



A - Obstruction within the path



B - Obstruction at edge of path or roadway

L = WS, where W is the offset in feet and S is bicycle approach speed in mph

* Provide an additional foot of offset for a raised obstruction and use the formula L = (W+1) S for the taper length

Figure 9C-9. Shared Lane Marking

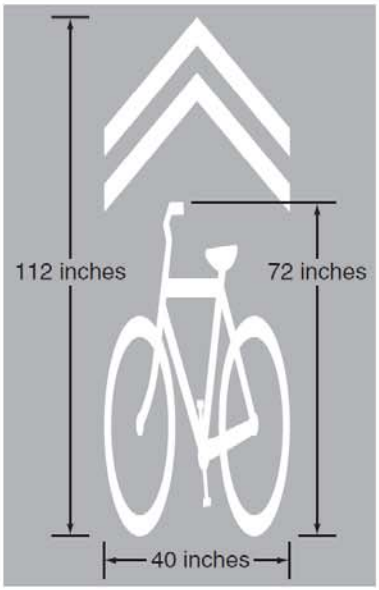


Figure 9C-101 (CA). Marking Details for Bicycle Lanes

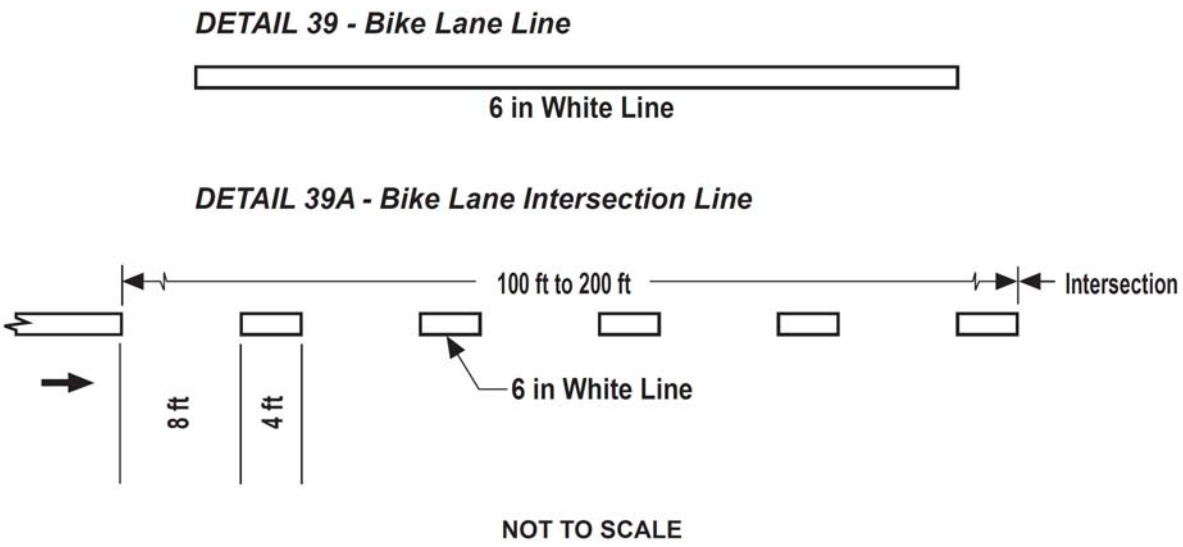
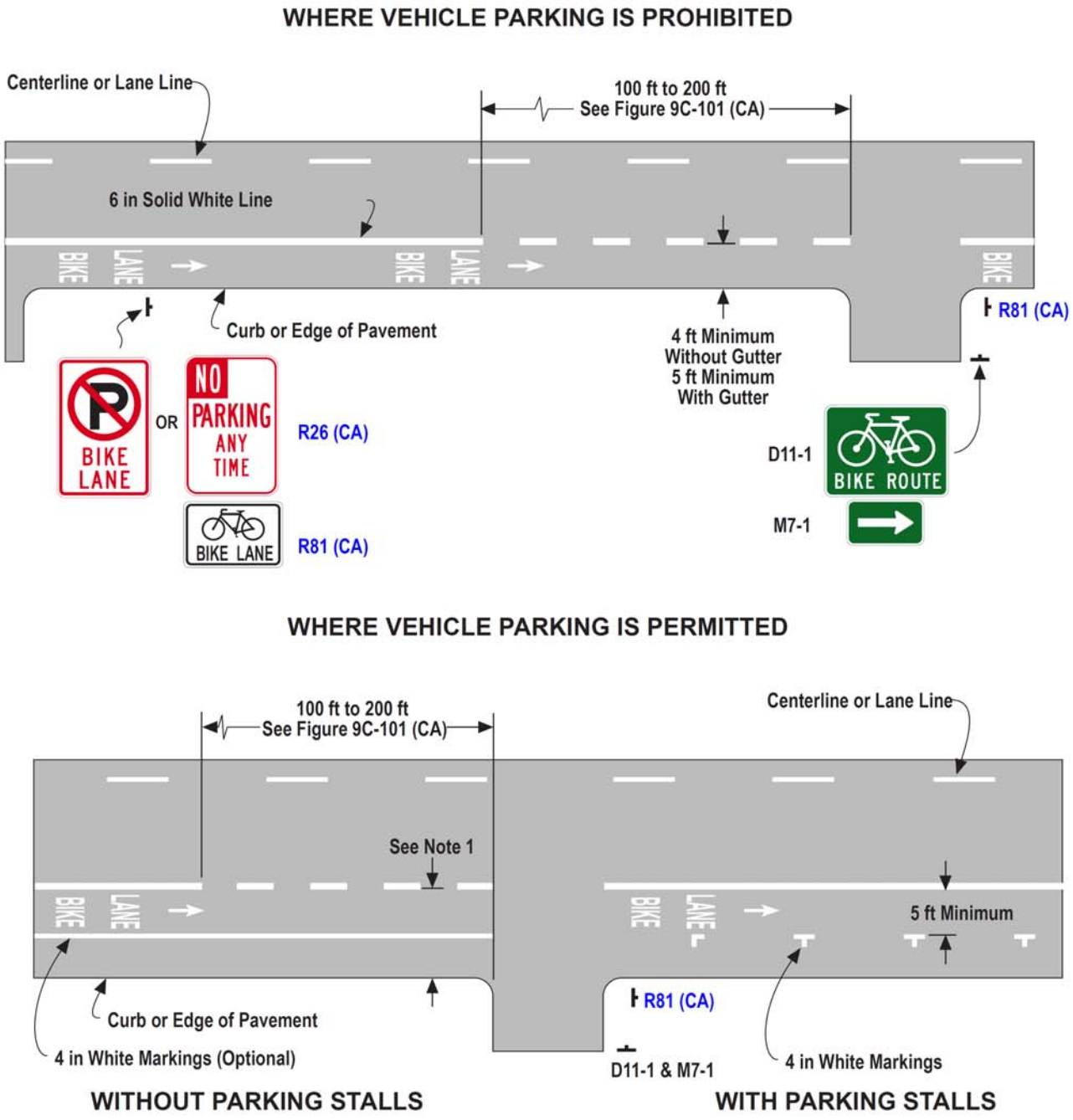


Figure 9C-102 (CA). Examples of Bicycle Lane Treatment Where Vehicle Parking is Prohibited/Permitted



NOT TO SCALE

NOTE 1: 11 ft Minimum for Rolled Curb
12 ft Minimum for Vertical Curb

Figure 9C-103 (CA). Example of Bicycle Lane Treatment Through an Interchange